

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 STATE 018072

11

ORIGIN EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SIL-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 ARA-06 AF-06

CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 RSC-01

DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 /101 R

DRAFTED BY EA/RA:RLWALKINSHAW:MJH:

APPROVED BY S/IL - D.GOOD

EUR - D.GOOTT (DRAFT)

NEA/RA - D.SEARING (DRAFT)

ARA/LA - J.O'GRADY (DRAFT)

AF/I - J.T.SMITH (DRAFT)

EA/VN - R.WENZEL

----- 035451

R 250049Z JAN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 018072

INFORM CONSULS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MASS, VS

SUBJECT: AFL-CIO PRESS RELEASE ON U.S. AID TO SOUTH VIETNAM

1. THERE HAS BEEN CERTAIN AMOUNT OF CONFUSION OVER INTENT OF AFL-CIO PRESIDENT MEANY'S REMARKS ON DICK CAVETT TELEVISION SHOW ON DECEMBER 19 THAT HE WOULD NOT HAVE SUPPORTED VIETNAM WAR HAD HE KNOWN THEN WHAT HE KNOWS NOW. MEANY'S AIDES, IN DISCUSSION WITH DEPARTMENT OFFICERS, HAVE MADE IT CLEAR THAT REMARKS SHOULD NOT RPT NOT BE CONSTRUED AS EVIDENCING A LESSENING OF AFL-CIO SUPPORT TO FREE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT OF SOUTH VIETNAM. MOREOVER, AFL-CIO CONTINUES TO HAVE STRONG FAITH IN THE PROGRESS AND

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 STATE 018072

FUTURE OF FREE INSTITUTIONS AND DEMOCRACY IN THE REPUBLIC

OF VIETNAM.

2. MR. MEANY HIMSELF HAS REAFFIRMED ABOVE POSITION BY  
ISSUING FOLLOWING PRESS RELEASE:

BEGIN TEXT:

AFL-CIO PRESIDENT GEORGE MEANY TODAY SAID THAT A UNITED STATES REFUSAL TO EXTEND FURTHER AMERICAN AID TO SOUTH VIETNAM "WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY STOP THE FIGHTING BUT MOST CERTAINLY NOT STOP THE KILLING."

MEANY'S STATEMENT CAME IN A LETTER TO PRESIDENT FORD,

CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS OF BOTH PARTIES AND KEY MEMBERS OF THE ARMED SERVICES AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS RELATIONS COMMITTEES OF BOTH HOUSES. MEANY INCLUDED IN HIS LETTER, DATED JANUARY 10 AND MADE PUBLIC TODAY, A CABLE HE HAD RECEIVED FROM TRAN QUOC BUU, PRESIDENT OF THE VIETNAMESE CONFEDERATION OF LABOR (CVT).

BUU CABLED MEANY THAT TWO CVT PROVINCE LEADERS "AND THOUSANDS OF MEMBERS OF OUR RUBBER PLANTATION WORKERS UNION, ALL CIVILIANS, (WERE) SLAUGHTERED BY COMMUNISTS, WHO WERE BACKED BY RUSSIAN TANKS, ARTILLERY AND LIMITLESS AMMUNITION" DURING THE FALL OF PHUOC BINH.

BUU SAID THAT IF THE "COMMUNISTS ARE ALLOWED TO DOMINATE (THE) COUNTRY...THERE IS NO PLACE FOR ANTICOMMUNISTS TO GO IN SOUTH VIETNAM BUT TO (A) FIRING SQUAD."

3. TEXT OF MR. MEANY'S LETTER TO PRESIDENT FORD AND CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS FOLLOWS:

THE FOLLOWING TELEGRAM WAS RECEIVED THIS MORNING FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE SOUTH VIETNAM'S FREE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT, MR. THAN QUOC BUU:

"DEAR PRESIDENT MEANY:

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 STATE 018072

"SOUTH VIETNAM'S FREE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT HAS TAKEN ANOTHER HARD BLOW. PHUOC BINH'S FALL AND RESULTING COMMUNIST CAPTURE OF PHUOC LONG PROVINCE IS DISAPPOINTING MILITARY SETBACK AND ANOTHER FLAGRANT VIOLATION OF PARIS AGREEMENT.

"MORE IMPORTANT THAN A MILITARY LOSS FOR WE LOST TWO MORE CVT PROVINCE LEADERS AND THOUSANDS OF MEMBERS OF

OUR RUBBER PLANTATION WORKERS UNION, ALL CIVILIANS, SLAUGHTERED BY COMMUNISTS WHO WERE BACKED BY RUSSIAN TANKS, ARTILLERY AND LIMITLESS AMMUNITION. I ASK YOU TO KINDLY TELL YOUR COUNTRYMEN THAT WITHOUT SUFFICIENT AMMUNITION AND SUPPLIES OUR BRAVE SOLDIERS CANNOT HOPE TO HOLD BACK THE BLOODTHIRSTY COMMUNIST HORDE. CVT WILL BE FIRST CASUALTY IF COMMUNISTS ARE ALLOWED TO DOMINATE COUNTRY. THIS WILL BE OUR DESTINY BASED ON EXPERIENCE OF 1954 WHEN ALL UNION BROTHERS IN THE NORTH WERE JAILED OR DISAPPEARED AFTER COMMUNIST TAKEOVER. WE CANNOT ESCAPE TO THE SOUTH AS IN 1954. THERE IS NO PLACE FOR ANTI-COMMUNISTS TO GO IN SOUTH VIETNAM BUT TO FIRING SQUAD. PLEASE TELL YOUR PEOPLE THAT OUR ONLY HOPE IS FOR AMERICAN GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE US THE NECESSARY SUPPORT FOR WITHOUT IT THE WORLD COMMUNIST CONSPIRACY WILL ADD ONE MORE

SATELLITE TO ITS ORBIT. TRAN QUOC BUU"

I AM SENDING THIS FOR YOUR INFORMATION AS, WITHIN THE LAST FEW DAYS, A RESPONSIBLE LEADER IN THE CONGRESS WAS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT THE REFUSAL TO EXTEND FURTHER AMERICAN AID TO SOUTH VIETNAM WOULD CERTAINLY BRING AN END TO THE FIGHTING AND THE KILLING.

IT IS OBVIOUS FROM THE WIRE FROM THE LEADER OF THE SOUTH VIETNAM FREE LABOR MOVEMENT THAT SUCH REFUSAL WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY STOP THE FIGHTING BUT MOST CERTAINLY NOT STOP THE KILLING.

END TEXT.

4. POSTS SHOULD, WHERE IT IS CONSIDERED APPROPRIATE AND PRODUCTIVE, PASS TEXT OF RELEASE TO KEY TRADE UNION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 STATE 018072

LEADERS AND OTHERS WHO MAY HAVE RAISED QUESTIONS ABOUT MR. MEANY'S REMARKS. INGERSOLL

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY ASSISTANCE, LABOR UNION OFFICIALS, PRESS RELEASES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 25 JAN 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** MorefiRH  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975STATE018072  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** RLWALKINSHAW:MJH:  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750028-0855  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750120/aaaaarkn.tel  
**Line Count:** 156  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ORIGIN EA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** MorefiRH  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 19 MAY 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <19 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <19 MAY 2003 by MorefiRH>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** AFL-CIO PRESS RELEASE ON U.S. AID TO SOUTH VIETNAM  
**TAGS:** MASS, ELAB, VS, US, AFL-CIO, (MEANY, GEORGE), (THAN QUOC BUU)  
**To:** ALL POSTS  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006